

Get Witnessing!

The harvest is plenteous by the laborers are few (Luke 10:1-2, Proverbs 10:5)

Now is the time to witness, now is the time to preach, now is the time to testify of Jesus Christ (John 4:34-37).

1. There is a need to testify of Jesus Christ

Believing the Gospel of Christ saves your soul

There is a need to testify of Jesus Christ and preach the gospel: it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes (Romans 1:16). When a preacher preaches the gospel of Christ crucified and a man believes what that preacher is saying, God saves that man's soul and he is born again (1 Corinthians 1:17-24, 15:1-4, Romans 10:8-15).

*No one will be saved because you live a good *outward* testimony in front of them. They need to hear the words of God and believe them. God did not ordain lifestyle evangelism – that was made up by those that are afraid to suffer reproach for Jesus Christ. God said Go, Stand, and Speak. He told you to open your mouth.

Jesus Christ commands it to be done

God commands it to be done (Mark 16:15, Acts 10:42-43)

Jesus didn't say wait for an opportunity, or wait for them to come to you or come to your church. He said Go to them. Why is that? There is none that seeks after God (Psalm 14:2-3). Let me ask you a question, were you seeking after God before you were saved? Of course not: someone that was saved was witnessing to you about Jesus Christ before you ever sought the Lord. Aren't you glad someone witnessed to you?

And by the way, don't get heady or high minded and exalt yourself above lost people, now that you do seek the Lord since you have been saved, because if it wasn't for God putting the new man with his new desires in you, you wouldn't be seeking God at all (Ephesians 4:24, Titus 3:5, Romans 7:18, Philippians 2:13).

Christian, not everyone will appreciate your witnessing, but some will!

Why did God give us the Holy Ghost? Many reasons, one of which is to testify of Jesus Christ to those that don't know him (Acts 1:4-8). Notice the Apostles wanted to know about when future prophecy was going to be fulfilled and learn more about the earthly kingdom and Jesus said, don't worry about that, GET WITNESSING! We are often like the Apostles, we just want to sit around and fellowship with the Lord and other believers, and that is needful and a blessing (like we saw last week), and talk about doctrine and the Bible, and Jesus says that's great, GET WITNESSING!

Every time in the book of Acts when it says someone is filled with the Holy Ghost they preached the word of God publicly (Acts 2:1-36; 4:8-13; 4:29-31; 7:55; 9:17-20; 12:22-24) or magnified God (Acts 10:44-46) or were filled with joy (Acts 13:52).

*In one instance Paul blinded a man (Acts 13:9-12).

6/9 times in the book of Acts when it says someone was filled with the Holy Ghost, they preached the word of God.

Note that an angel will not preach the gospel to somebody in our day, but he will send them to a saved man that is preaching the gospel (Acts 10:1-6). Note also that Jesus Christ himself will not preach the gospel to somebody in our day, he will send them to a saved man that is preaching the gospel (Acts 9:1-6, Acts 22:11-16). That is why we as saved born again Christians ought to consistently preach his word because then the LORD sees we are faithful in doing that, who knows who he might send by our way! He might send someone that will actually listen!

2. What Preaching the Gospel is likened unto

Preaching the gospel is like sowing seed. Some plant, some water, some reap, BUT all the steps in between are done by God: he gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

If you are someone that plants – you receive a reward.

If you are someone that waters – you receive a reward.

If you are someone that reaps – you receive a reward.

Can I help you real quick? It seems like God pays you the say amount regardless if you are the one that plants the seed of the word of God, waters the seed of the word of God, or reaps the fruit unto life everlasting (John 4:36-38, Matthew 20:1-16)! We all want to be the reapers and be the one that leads a soul to Jesus Christ. Who doesn't want that? But as Paul says we are nothing, but God is something that gives the increase. No matter what part of the field we work in, and during what season we work in (we are suppose to preach in and out of season, regardless of whether it is time to sow seed or reap fruit – 2 Timothy 4:2), God will reward us for whatever labor we do! That helps me! That encourages me (Hebrews 6:10, 1 Corinthians 15:58).

You know what discourages a Christian from witnessing and testifying of Jesus Christ more than anything? Not seeing the fruit of his labors and not seeing the results he is looking for. But God said his word when it goes forth **ALWAYS** accomplishes something and doesn't **RETURN UNTO HIM VOID** (Isaiah 55:10-11). It may return unto us void, but it is not supposed to return anything unto us at all to begin with! It's the Lord's vineyard, it's the Lord's harvest, and it's his fruit: it belongs to him. We are just laborers in his field. And thank God he will reward us for our own labor.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 to everything there is a season and a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted. There is a time to sow seed, there is a time to water that seed, and there is a time to reap the fruit of that seed.

You know how we are? We want to be the one that only picks the fruit off the tree so we can get a little bit of glory too. Amen, amen, amen. Look how many I have lead to the Lord. That must mean I am spiritual since I have reaped so much fruit.

Hey guess what, it requires more blood, sweat, tears, and time to prepare the ground for the seed of the word of God, and continually water that seed of the word of God (not giving it too much or too little) and making sure it gets enough sunlight than it is to pick the fruit of the tree. That doesn't take much effort. You just walk up to the tree and pick the fruit off of it. That takes 1 second. But getting the seed for produce that fruit takes a long, long time.

Listen, the fruit is not always ripe for the picking. Not everybody is ready to be saved when you come across his or her path. I know the Bible says today is the day of salvation and we ought to tell them that! But it won't do any good to try and pick fruit off the tree if it isn't ripe yet. It won't do anybody any good if we force someone to get saved when they are not ready to be saved.

We don't save souls; Jesus Christ saves souls. We don't convince men of their sin; the Holy Ghost convinces men of their sin. We don't impart the new birth; Jesus Christ imparts the new birth. We don't draw men to Christ; God the Father draws men to Christ. Far too often we try to take God's job in saving sinners and convicting them of their sin. Let God do his job and let us do our job.

So what is our job? To simply open our mouths and testify of Jesus Christ: that's all! Tell them how to be saved: that's all. Preach Jesus and him crucified and the Holy Ghost does the rest. Have you ever read the book of Acts? They preached a short sermon about Jesus Christ, how God raised him from the dead, and how they ought to believe on him in order to be saved.

Not one place in your Bible does someone repeat a prayer after someone else for salvation. Praying a prayer doesn't save you: believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is what saves you. I would be careful about getting someone to recite a prayer. We don't want your converts, we want Holy Ghost converts. Can someone get saved by repeating a prayer? Only if they believed on the name of the Son of God and that he rose again from the dead.

3. Why Christians don't Witness

Common excuses Christians make

I don't know enough of the Bible, I don't have the proper training, I don't know what to say, I am not good at it, I don't want to cause problems, I don't have time, I don't think it does any good, I don't believe in doing it that way, etc.

The Real reasons why Christians don't witness

1. We are ashamed of Jesus Christ.

It's sad but we often times don't open our mouths because we are ashamed of Jesus Christ. We don't want anybody to know that we belong to him and that we love him. God

is not ashamed to be called our God (Hebrews 11:16) but we are ashamed to call him our God. We all have been guilty of this. There is nothing that proves you are ashamed of Jesus Christ more than when you are afraid to witness to somebody about Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, our God in the flesh, died naked in the sight of all his creation and we won't open up our mouths and testify of Jesus Christ because we are embarrassed?

2. We are too concerned about our reputation

The Bible says Jesus Christ made himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7) and we are commanded to have the same mindset. We don't witness because we are afraid of what people might think of us. Isn't it amazing how we are so concerned about what complete strangers think of us that don't love us, care for us, our pay our bills? We are afraid they will say he is one of those Christians. He is a fanatic, he is a lunatic, he is crazy, etc. They said Paul was mad and beside himself, they said Jesus Christ had a devil: don't expect to be treated any differently. But when these things happen to you Jesus Christ is glorified (Matthew 5:11-12, 1 Peter 4:12-16), so rejoice in that!

3. We are not living right

Sometimes we don't open up our mouths because our mouth doesn't match our walk and we don't want to be hypocritical. That is definitely a problem. But the Bible says if we confess our sins he will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). So now we are back in the game and ready for God to use us. Some people will say they are not holy enough. Well if that's how you feel, sanctify (1 Corinthians 1:30) yourself by the blood of Christ and lets go! Now you are clean again and fit for the Masters use.

4. We fear men more than we fear God

Sometimes we are just afraid to preach the gospel and witness to people. But if we succumb to our fear, it just shows we fear men more than we fear God, which by the way is sin. People told the Apostles to stop preaching about Jesus Christ and what was their response (Acts 5:29), God told us to preach Jesus Christ to the people, so we are going to preach Jesus Christ to the people. Don't be afraid of their faces (Jeremiah 1:7-9).

Concluding Thoughts

- God has given to ALL Christians the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Notice what it says here. He has committed (entrusted) unto us the ministry and word of reconciliation. He trusts we will try to reconcile people back to God by giving them the gospel. How are we doing with that?
- God wants you to tell people that don't want to hear it (Ezekiel 2:3-10).
- Sometimes God wants his word preached to people that he knows will not listen, that he knows will not repent, that he knows will not be saved (Ezekiel 3:4-7). Isn't that something? God says if I send Ezekiel over here they would have listened, but I want you Ezekiel to preach to people that won't listen. Ezekiel will get the same reward as someone that leads thousands to the Lord because he did what God told *him* to do. The results don't determine your reward, obeying God and serving him with the right heart is what gets you a reward.
- This leads me to the next point: You are not witnessing for the sake of the people, you

are doing it for Jesus Christ. If you always witness because you want to be pleasing to the Lord, you won't be discouraged. If you are doing it for any other reason, you will be discouraged.

- The Godhead is refreshed by you being a faithful messenger (Proverbs 25:13) It blesses God's heart when we are a faithful minister of reconciliation.

Lastly, there is no greater joy Jesus Christ has than when he saves a sinner (Matthew 18:11-14, Luke 15:4-10, Hebrews 12:2).